

Blacks fired in government more than whites

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An interview with Brandy

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National News

by Robert N. Taylor

Hastings poised to be chairman of Black Caucus

Rep. Alcee Hastings of Miami is vying to become the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus in the 104th Congress. Hastings was the black federal judge in Florida and was impeached by Congress in 1989 after being acquitted of bribery charges at a trial. Hastings' current Black Caucus counterpart, Rep. John Conyers, of Detroit, the caucus' senior member chaired the impeachment proceedings against Hastings. Hastings currently serves as one of two vice chairs of what will be a 41-member caucus in January 1995. His strongest rival to succeed Kweisi Mfume as Chairman is four-term Rep. Donald Payne of Newark.

—WASHINGTON, DC

Poverty hits more black children

America's black children are nearly three times as likely to live in poverty as white children, reports the U.S. Census Bureau. The report found that 46 percent of black children lived in poverty compared with 16 percent of white children. The report found black children far more likely to live with a single parent who has never been married, or with grandparents or a single parent, usually the mother. Seventy-seven percent of white children lived with both parents in 1993, compared with 35 percent of black children.

—WASHINGTON, DC

United Nations to hold hearings on U.S. racism

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has appointed Maurice G. Ahanhanzo of Benin, West Africa as special rapporteur on racism. He began his investigation of racism in the United States at Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church. The Special Rapporteur's mandate includes looking for "racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance." Some issues Giele will investigate are: Why the mortality rate of African men in Harlem exceeds that of Bangladesh? The fact that in any given time, 70 percent of black youth and 43 percent of black men are unemployed. And that although blacks are 12 percent of the population, they represent 41 percent of the homeless population. In addition to numerous articles and books on religion, politics and culture among blacks, Giele, who holds a law degree, is one of the writers of the African Charter of Human Rights. —WASHINGTON, DC

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African Americans and the GOP new world order

by Paul Joseph

From New York City to Texas and California, American voters are sending a strong message to President Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party during the recent midterm elections: they want drastic change in government and the country overall. The historic GOP sweep which gave the Republicans control of both the Senate and the House for the first time in 40 years is a testimony to that. Running on platforms which they said represented "middle-class" America such as lowering taxes, reducing crime, keeping jobs in the country, the GOP managed to acquire 52 Senate seats, 224 congressional seats. In several state gubernatorial elections, the GOP muscled in on 31 seats. There is no doubt that the country is moving toward a new social/political agenda.

Republicans' rush in their victory and boast of their "Contract with America," a set of proposals signed by 370 House candidates which include welfare reforms, a crime bill with less social reform measures, more jails and police, a series of tax cuts, relief for families, a balance budget amendment, term limits and several other measures.

"This is the time to be open to dramatic, bold changes," House Speaker-to-be Newt

by Paul Joseph

At the ripe age of 16, high school freshman Zakke Scott of Newark could have been among the 60 percent of urban youths who drop out of high school according to the U.S. Department of Education. He was left back twice and found school "to be very difficult" with teachers who "did not care whether I learned or not."

"I didn't like school," he said as he reflected on his education, adding, "I didn't feel I needed it."

On the average, 1,000 high schoolers drop out of school each day, according to the Office of Education Research and Improvements, National Center for Education Statistics. These dropouts make up 90 million Americans who have low levels of literacy and nearly 80 percent have 0-8 years of education.

Today, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the nation's largest drop-out prevention organization, Cities In Schools, Inc. and one of the largest fast-food chains, the Burger King Corporation, a lot of young people like Scott are making the choice to stay in school. The young man has changed his views and is hoping to go to college to study engineering.

Last Wednesday, the social program and the food franchise came together at Newark's Malcolm X Shabazz High School to announce the opening of the city's first Cities In School/Burger King Academy, a school of choice for high school students performing

(Continued on page 3)

Rainbow Coalition targets NCAA

WASHINGTON, DC.—Fed up with the status quo, the Rainbow Coalition has launched an initiative to address the shortage of minority representation in athletics administrative positions at NCAA institutions. The campaign could include boycotts, pickets and possible lawsuits against colleges that don't hire adequate numbers of black coaches and do a poor job of graduating black athletes.

It is time for a change," said Reverend Jesse L. Jackson. "Affirmative action must be put into play at NCAA institutions. Blacks must be able to develop and prosper beyond the playing field." He noted that half of the athletes in football and basketball at NCAA Division I institutions are black, but only 6.2 percent of athletics administrators, including coaches, are black (excluding historically black institutions).

The Rainbow Commission for Fairness in Athletics (RCFA) has begun the process of rating NCAA Division I institutions according to a variety of facts, including number of black athletes, graduation rates, number of blacks in coaching and athletic administrative positions, number of blacks in the student body, number of black faculty and administrators, and black population in a campus community.

"This 'Fairness index' will give our black children and our community a basis on which to judge how individual institutions are treat-

ing us," Jackson said. "We need to stay clear of 'black institutions' and the politics of racism."

The RCFA has also drafted a proposed affirmative action plan for NCAA institutions that addresses the inclusion of minorities and women at all levels of college athletics, including but not limited to, coaches, athletics administrators, sports information and radio/TV announcers. The plan also calls for the inclusion of women and minorities in the purchase of goods and services and in merchandising.

Charles S. Farrell, national director of the RCFA, said meetings are planned with NCAA's executives to get them to voluntarily adopt affirmative action plans. But realizing that NCAA institutions have been slow in the area of equal opportunity employment, Farrell said he and Reverend Jackson plan to meet with top NCAA officials to press for a mandatory affirmative action plan. "If the NCAA and its membership can dictate academic standards for college sports," he said, "it can dictate affirmative action."

The RCFA will target select institutions that have the worst records on affirmative action and begin direct action against them if they don't strive to improve. That action could be in the form of lawsuits, boycotts and picketing.

The RCFA also plans to meet with black press recruits nationwide to help them in making

(Continued on page 6)

Gingrich (R-Ga.) said at a Washington press conference.

The African American community must wonder where does it fit in this "Contract with America" given the fact that in recent decades the GOP has opted to ignore the needs of African Americans.

Under Republican Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush, African Americans saw the attempts to repeal several hard fought civil rights legislations, repeal of affirmative action policies, less aid to urban centers populated largely by African Americans and the loss of jobs. Walter L. Fields Jr., political director of the New Jersey Chapter of the NAACP, said at this point "it is hard to tell" the course Republicans are likely to take to the African American Community since "Republicans are not united in their Contract with America." He said although a majority of the House has signed the contract, it has not been approved by the Senate.

However, "with this party, we need to make sure that our interests as a group are protected," Fields said, adding, "the African American community needs to mobilize and organize in order to hold public officials accountable in meeting these needs."

Ed Tiller, chairman of the Piscataway Republican Organization and author of "Being a Black Republican -

It's Not Easy," says although he is "personally delighted that the Republicans won control of Congress and the Senate," acknowledged his party "does not have a good record in helping the black community."

He said although Republicans have made great strides this past election, only two black Republicans were voted into office. He said the number is low because of "a lack of commitment and internal support from the GOP." He added that the perceived fear and reservations that African Americans have for the current shift in government is based on the republican philosophy which said, "we can sacrifice black people." He stated for years, Republicans have not reached the black community because it did not need their vote.

However, Tiller said the GOP now has a great opportunity, nationally and locally, to persuade the African American community "that it is in their best interest, and will be ardent in its efforts to serve all Americans with a special agenda for the African American and other minority communities."

"This new GOP control base must make inclusion of African Americans a fact rather than a continuing promise," Tiller said.



Pictured left to right: Eric Mundt, Burger King franchisee; Bill Hufnagel, Burger King franchisee; Mary Joe Fernandez, professional tennis player; Kenneth Peterson, NJ Nets basketball player; Gus Galardi, Director of Company Operations, Burger King Corporation and Dr. Julia A. Miller, State Director, New Jersey Cities In Schools at Burger King National Franchise Association's check presentation to the Cities In School/Burger King Academy program, a national drop-out prevention program.

Clarke: Blacks deal in ceremony without substance

by Natalie Bernard

It was a night of cultural explosion as hundreds gathered to celebrate one of the largest events for students of African descent at Rutgers-Newark, African Cultural Night. From oral revelations to luxurious African clothing, this event captured its theme, "12 months of culture" posing the audience to vast contributions and expressions of African people. Keynote speaker Dr. John Henrik Clarke, who focused his remarks on going beyond pan-Africanism, was welcomed with a standing ovation and a tumultuous round of applause.

"Why are you studying beyond pan-Africanism, if I have not brought you to pan-Africanism," he asked. He asked the audience to understand the importance of unity, and how African people should join together to reclaim Africa. "When it comes to the rules of this nation, Europeans rule Europe and that's a fact. Asian's rule Asia and that's a fact. So in the hell do you want to share Africa with someone else. Everybody can come into your home, but you can't go into their home and share anything," he said.

The 79-year-old historian explained that during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Freedom Rides, and the Caribbean concept of Federation, African people of the world convinced even their oppressors that they deserved power, and if they didn't get it, they were going to take it. He said African peoples once possessed aggressive attitudes about unification and however "protesters and imitation revolutionists who are five pimps, anti-poverty pimps, black studies pimps and liberation pimps," people ceased fighting.

"Instead of sitting down quietly planning your next move, you engage in a whole lot of ceremony without substance; you rehearse for a show that you didn't get on the road," Clarke said. The theory of collective discipline could work for Africans and Clarke cited the case of modern Japan to prove his point.

"We should have trained young men from gold mine gold and build roads, like the Japanese did. Quietly, the Japanese sent their children to study in the west, and when Russia brushed up against them, the little Japanese had the war," he said.

Clarke explained that Nigeria has the wealth, manpower, and technical skills but the worthy Africans have been overthrown coup after coup, and the present leaders in Africa are "imitation" Europeans. He said African nations should not look to their European counterparts for guidance and that there was a time in history when Europeans

had no power, nor functioning states.

"Why not consider how Africans ruled themselves before the coming of Europeans? I defy anyone, to show me a word that meant jail, prostitution or other people's homes, or orphans before the Europeans came. If Africans did all of this, before the Europeans came, this means they had what we value over and above anything the Europeans ever had," he said Religion, Christianity and Islam both, played a role in the enslavement of African people. Clarke explained his view. If God chooses one group of people over another than he is not godly or universal.

"Do you see a Chinese child in the Bible? Is there a Japanese child in the Bible? Do you see one black child in the Bible? The Bible unfolds partly in Africa, but do you see an African child in the Bible?" he asked.

"The Bible is part of the colonization of God by western man. We still worship a picture painted in Europe 1500 years after Christ died and we don't dispute it. We are the largest group of people on the face of the earth who worship a deity that does not look like us," he said. Clarke said as long as African people follow a cultural, political, and spiritual way of life not defined by themselves, they will be subservient to others.

"When we go beyond pan-Africanism in the western world, we don't have to ask what belongs to us. And before we take it back, let's make sure we have someone trained to handle it correctly," he said.

A stunning fashion exposition Vogue Afrique highlighted the evening with unique designs by Ruby Ansoh from Rubida Fashions in Jersey City. The models added a spice of drama to poses and k-turns, as they elegantly strolled across the stage. Commentator Cass Crews introduced the models who wore celebration head wraps, side wraps and dashikis. The theory of collective discipline could work for Africans and Clarke cited the case of modern Japan to prove his point.

The Hameed Drummers and Dancers enriched the audience with their cultural drum renditions and eloquent African dances. During their grand finale, two 5-year-old dancers stole the show with their performance, embracing the audience with their youthful charm and vibrant energy.

Associate Provost Raymond Smith commended the sponsors of the event—the African Students Organization—for a tremendous and noteworthy event. "So many times we hear profound words as we commune. Tonight, as we hear these words, we should reflect upon Dr. Clarke's words," he said.

Community Calendar

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Board of Education is seeking residents who are interested in serving on the Citizens School Budget Advisory Committee. For more info call 908-753-3151.

MONTCLAIR—The Mental Health Association in New Jersey is seeking volunteers for one of its community education programs known as "Project Return Players." For training and registration, call 201-744-9500.

ONGOING...

EAST ORANGE—The East Orange YMCA is conducting Adult Swim Lessons on Tuesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info call 201-673-5688.

NOW THRU DECEMBER 2

MAHWAH—"Hail Three Victors," a painting exhibition at Ramapo College of New Jersey. For more info about times, call 201-529-7568.

NOW THRU DECEMBER 17

MAHWAH—Columbia University is having an exhibition of "The Art of Sotho Habitation: Photographs of Rural Painting in Southern Africa" from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more info call 212-854-7288.

THURSDAY, DEC. 1

JERSEY CITY—Hudson County Community College is offering a one-day class from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. "The GED Practice Test." For more info call 201-714-2107.

NOW THRU FEBRUARY 26

EWING TOWNSHIP—Transton State College is hosting a major African-American art exhibition entitled "Free Within Quarters: African-American Art from the Museum's Collection." For more info call 609-771-2568.

NOW THRU JANUARY 23

MANHATTAN—The Museum of the City of New York is featuring a special exhibition entitled "A New York Holiday." Admission is free. For more info call 212-534-1672.

Send Community Calendar events to

City News,

P.O. Box 1774 Plainfield, NJ 07061

School funding advocate speaks in Plainfield

PLAINFIELD—Marilyn Morheuser, the executive director of the Education Law Center that sued the state over school funding, says the battle for equality in education is not over. She will speak in Plainfield on Wednesday, November 30 to alert parents to additional steps she believes are needed and the actions that may be expected by the state.

The public forum on November 30 will be held at the Plainfield High School auditorium (950 Park Avenue) at 7 p.m., following a public

reception for her in the high school cafeteria that begins at 5:30 p.m.

The battle for equitable school funding reached a turning point in 1990 when the state Supreme Court ruled in a suit filed by Ms. Morheuser that the state's school funding formula discriminated against poor, urban districts.

The Court gave the date until the 1997 to 1998 school year to achieve full compliance with the Court's decision.

Public forum seeks views on teen sexual problems

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Board of Education will discuss teen sexual problems and the availability of condoms through the public schools at a forum scheduled for Thursday, December 1. Members of the board requested the forum to determine public opinion on the subject before a policy is developed.

Board members agreed to hold the forum in order to seek direction

from the community on how best to deal with the problems of teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

The forum will be held at the Plainfield High School Library at 7:00 p.m. The board of education plans to give residents an opportunity to hear from individuals who have been active in the community in sexual counseling and advising individuals.

Housing speak out: The need for affordable housing

NEWARK—A Housing Speak Out, highlighting the need for affordable housing, will be held on Saturday, December 3 at the St. Patrick's School Auditorium at 72 Central Avenue on the corner of Washington Street in Newark from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Speak Out is being sponsored by the Affordable Housing Network HUD Tenant's Coalition, Newark Coalition for Low Income Housing and the Newark Community Develop-

ment Network. Its open and free to those who would like to attend. Residents from Newark and Essex County who are tenants in problem buildings, who are in danger of homelessness, who are homeless, and who are representatives from non-profit housing development groups will present testimony at the Speak Out. A panel consisting of individuals from a number of civic organizations will take the testimony.



EAST ORANGE—On Friday, November 11, Mayor Cardell Cooper joined East Orange veterans at their annual Veterans Day program in front of City Hall, where he praised the veterans for their courageous and unwavering commitment to the preservation of democracy throughout the world. Veterans from the five posts based in the city participated. The East Orange Amvets Post #70 served as this year's host post and the Louis Gray Sr. DAV Chapter #84, East Orange Memorial Post #5445, VFW, Louis L. Lackland Post #7923 and East Orange Memorial Post #10888 VFW were represented. Pictured at the memorial site are (l to r) Commander Robert Louis L. Lackland, Post #7923; Commander Louis Ginefra, East Orange Amvets Post #70; Mayor Cardell Cooper; James H. Lewis Gray Sr., DAV Chapter #84; Fred Shaw, East Orange Amvets Post #10888 VFW; Commander Marshal Lewis Gray Sr., DAV Chapter #84 and Al Lago, East Orange Amvets Post #70.

City of Plainfield receives pedestrian safety award

PLAINFIELD—How often do you think about arriving safely at your destination? Especially when you're traveling by foot. If you're like most people, hardly ever.

Recently, Plainfield was one of 57 communities recognized by the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club for its commitment to pedestrian safety. The communities received awards at AAA's second annual "Breakfast of Champions." Plainfield was awarded the club's Pedestrian Safety Citation Award which is presented to communities that have not had a pedestrian death in nine or less years.

"Every day thousands of local residents travel safely to their jobs, home or school via car, bus, train or foot because of the community safety efforts of cities like Plainfield," said Frederick L. Gruel, Club President. "While Plainfield may consider their efforts routine, the AAA views them as heroic."



Marilyn Pfaltz, (l) chairperson of the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club's Board of Trustees, takes a moment to chat with Sergeant Mike Amato (c) of the Plainfield Police Department and Director Sideeq El-Amin (r) at ceremony.

Ramapo professor selected for Kellogg Fellowship



Kellogg Fellowship recipient, Professor Demetria Royals.

MAHWAH—Demetria B. Royals of Brooklyn, NY, and a professor in the School of Contemporary Arts at Ramapo College of New Jersey, is one of 45 individuals throughout the country selected to participate in a Kellogg National Fellowship Program over the next three years.

Candidates were selected by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for their prestigious award from a field of 197 applicants which included, faculty and administrators at educational institutions and health centers, as well as personnel from government, business, industry and the human services sector.

Juggling dual careers of college instructor and visual artist, Royals is

the only faculty member chosen from a New Jersey college or university. She received a grant of \$35,000 to cover a self-designed plan of study and is eligible for a partial salary stipend to enable her to participate in program activities.

Royals is an experienced award-winning film producer and writer who heads her own production company, Diamond Royals Productions, Inc.

In 1993, she was the recipient of a \$100,000 NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) grant which allowed her to develop a film project on a relatively obscure part of U.S. cultural history: African-American artists.

Last year, at the Mill Valley California Film Festival she premiered a multi-video music and graphics piece on the subject of black women and their struggles entitled *Inventing Herself*.

Royals holds a B.A. in Journalism from New York University, and a M.F.A. from N.Y.U.'s Graduate Institute of Film and Television. The Fellows, from diverse backgrounds and geographic locations, will participate in Group XIV of the Fellowship Program which will focus on the theme "The Promise and Reality of Democracy: A Call for Transforming Leadership." They will attend educational seminars, designed to strengthen their leadership skills, at sites throughout the United States and Latin America.



The National Black United Fund was recently presented with a check for \$10,000 by Anheuser-Busch, Inc., and King Cobra Premium Malt Liquor. The donation was part of the King Cobra Cash Sweepstakes national promotion. King Cobra selected one national sweepstakes winner who was awarded \$5,000. In addition, King Cobra also made a \$10,000 contribution in that winner's name to the NBUF, to support its work in education and economic development. Pictured holding a copy of the check are (l-r) William Merritt, CEO for the NBUF and Curtis Greer, president of Quality Beers, Inc.

100 Black Men of NJ award academic scholarships to students

MONTCLAIR—The 100 Black Men of New Jersey, Inc., a non-profit corporation comprising of black businessmen, attorneys, physicians, dentists, corporate leaders and other professionals, recently awarded Marie Treadwell Scholarships to 12 college students from New Jersey.

Scholarship recipients are: Nasir Shakir, Camden, Rutgers-New Brunswick; Stephen Jackman, East Orange, Stevens College; Keon Carpenter, Jersey City, Holy Cross; Michael Gaddy, Newark, New

Jersey Institute of Technology; Donatus Harris, Newark, University of Pittsburgh;

Julian Hines, Newark, Rutgers University-New Brunswick;

Kevin McCleave, Newark, Montclair State University;

Shawn McClean, Orange, New Jersey Institute of Technology;

Wade Reid, Paterson, New Jersey Institute of Technology;

Danny Woodson, Roselle, Virginia Union;

Yaslyn Daniels, Teaneck, New York University;

Robert Taylor, Teaneck, University of Maryland at College Park.

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National News

by Robert N. Taylor

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Group seeks boycott of KFC stores

A Shelby County Kentucky civil rights group has called for a nationwide boycott of most KFC Inc. stores, saying the company discriminates against blacks. The group, which recently rallied outside KFC's Louisville headquarters on November 25, says the only exceptions to their wrath will be those KFC franchises run by blacks. In a letter to KFC's corporate parent, PepsiCo Inc., Rev. Louis H. Coleman, Jr. of Shelbyville, complained that few franchises in minority neighborhoods are owned by minorities, saying "many minority franchises are geared to failure," in part because KFC spends more money improving suburban stores than those in inner cities. He also says that blacks hold no "relevant" positions and have no clout within the company. KFC denies Coleman's criticism and says that KFC and PepsiCo are recognized for "creating real opportunity" for blacks. KFC's senior vice president for personnel is Oden Lee, an African American. Five of KFC's seven corporate and regional directors are black. The company said 30 percent of all store managers are black, and 17 percent of its directors of operations are black. In 1980, the company set up a minority franchise program, which provides financial aid to qualified entrepreneurs. KFC has 9,033 stores around the world and had sales of \$7.1 billion last year.—LOUISVILLE, KY

Michael Jackson and Thriller still #1

Michael Jackson's *Thriller*, the biggest selling album of all time in this country, has reached another milestone in the marketplace: 24 million copies sold. The 36-year-old performer and Sony Records will release a 30-track greatest hits package entitled: *History: His Story*. In December.—WASHINGTON, DC

Blacks fired in government more than whites

by William Reed

When the private sector blatantly would not hire blacks, the government has traditionally been the employer who blacks turn to. Now, based on a new study that dramatically affirms the fact that black Americans are being fired from federal jobs at a rate that is substantially higher than that of whites, the group Blacks In Government (BIG) has called for renewed efforts by the government to curtail workplace discrimination.

The call from BIG comes in the wake of a study commissioned last December by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), following a report by the Knight Rider News Service of statistics that show blacks are being fired at three times the rate of whites.

After taking into account age, education, job performance and other factors, statistics show that black Americans do not get the same objective treatment and considerations in the federal workplace as whites.

In a letter to President Clinton, Oscar Eason, president-elect of the Seattle-based organization said, "The statistics revealed in the latest study underscore the need for a more aggressive approach to the problem than is now being pursued. It is important to recognize that the disparate firings are the symptoms and not the disease. The disease is racism and the bias of supervisors who consciously or unconsciously make decisions differently depending on the employee's race."

Eason also stated that, "We believe that the statistics reflect a lax enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, a lack of accountability, and a permissive attitude toward discrimination in the workplace." Eason says that even though many government agencies have initiated programs whereas more blacks are being employed, it is a revolving door because supervisors are discharging blacks for "minor" offenses.

Federal managers say the reason black workers are fired more often than whites is that they tend to be less educated and concentrated in low-level jobs where firings are common.

BIG is an organization that has more than 25,000 members and represents 1.6 million African Americans working for the government at the federal, state or local level. Of the 18.7 million civilian government employees on government payrolls in 1992, three million were federal employees, 4.5 million worked for state government, and 11 million worked for local governments. African Americans make up 16.6 percent of federal employees, but 39 percent of those fired.

According to the Census Bureau, the number of civilian employees in the federal government declined while civilian employment in state and local government increased in past years. Government employment has traditionally been a major source of employment income for blacks. Studies say that if the firing trend continues,

there will be an annual loss of 40,000 black-held jobs. Gross payrolls for civilian government employees are currently estimated at \$43.1 billion.

"Reports from our membership nationwide indicate that the disparate firings are but the tip of the iceberg. In fact, disparate decisions based on race are being made across the board—in appraisals, promotions, assignments, and disciplinary actions," says Eason. "Thus, to view the disparate rate of terminations as a separate issue is to miss the real problem."

"We must apply more serious measures that will cut off the ability of people practicing discrimination to continue to do so. Clearly, in an increasing diverse workforce, such disparate treatment severely undermines the morale and productivity of employees," said Eason.

"Moreover, in light of the Administration's goals for government downsizing, the study strikes an ominous note. Without immediate action, we cannot be assured that the process of downsizing will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on African-American employees."

Black workers were fired in disproportionate numbers at nearly every pay grade from clerks to senior executives.

BIG has recommended to President Clinton that the following provisions be taken for governments to provide an equitable workplace:

- ✓ Reform the process for handling discrimination complaints to permit effective sanctions against managers who intentionally discriminate.
- ✓ Publicize those agencies with significant disparate termination

- rates.
- ✓ Require each agency to set up a task force composed of EEO managers, union representatives, employee organizations and stockholders (including BIG) to review discrimination in the workplace.
- ✓ Require the agencies to set up more stringent standards for managers that recognize the importance of diversity.
- ✓ Include in the charge of cabinet-level officers a responsibility to promote and implement diversity in the federal workplace.

Eason says BIG has initiated a nationwide series of complaints resolution forums to get government employees to air their concerns regarding discrimination in the workplace. The forums will be designed to include "impartial" civic leaders.

Kids get another chance

(continued from page 1)

below their potential in traditional schools.

The academy consists of programs designed to improve overall student performance and enthusiasm for education. Together, the two groups help students face and overcome personal dilemmas such as poor school attendance, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse and low self-esteem.

The program also stresses developing parental commitment and involvement and provides health and social services. In addition, students receive scholarships and work experience through partnerships established with area businesses.

In welcoming the alternative school in Newark, world class tennis player and the Spokesperson for the CIS/Burger King Academy Mary Joe Fernandez, told students gathered in the school's library that it was important to stay in school and get their diplomas.

"As a young athlete, I was under enormous pressure to drop out of school to concentrate full-time on tennis," she said. "I stayed in school to prepare for life after tennis. That is the lesson I want to pass on through

my involvement with the Burger King Academies."

She also told the students that staying in school was a "tough course," but "it is the right choice. You are all winners and an inspiration to all the athletes," said, adding, "keep up the good work."

New Jersey Nets star Kenny Anderson also endorsed the new school. The National Basketball Association player told the gathered youngsters with education they can become whatever they choose.

He urged the kids to "put their minds to it (school)" and "stay away from the wrong people" who may have negative influences on their lives.

"If you dedicate yourselves to anything in life, you can achieve it," Anderson told the room of beaming youngsters. "Dream hard and stay away from bad influences."

Director of Company Operations for the Burger King Corporation Gus Gelardi said the opening of the Academy in Newark was a community effort and solid partnership between CIS and the Newark Board of Education.

He told the kids Burger King

"has made a solid commitment to make sure it serves their needs."

"Burger King recognizes the importance of education," Gelardi said, adding, "whatever obstacles you may face, know that support will be behind you."

Dr. Julia A. Miller, state director of New Jersey Cities In School stated that it took a lot of hard work and dedication to establish the program. She urged that students to take advantage of the program.

"You're what we're all about," she said, "I hope you take advantage of all that we have to offer to you."

Bill Huffnagel representing the National Franchise Association for Burger King, donated \$60,000 to the Newark school.

"This represents our bequeathing commitment to education and drop out prevention," he said.

Also taking part in the ceremony were Mary G. Bennett, principal of Malcolm X Shabazz and Anthony L. Greene, project director of the Malcolm X Shabazz/CIS/Burger King Academy.

The Newark Academy marks the 34th in the nation and in England. The first opened in Miami, Florida in 1989.

More than 3,000 students are currently enrolled in the program. The Newark school has 75 students and has been in operation for two months. Academies are set up in existing schools or separate facilities. Currently some are in churches, shopping malls and synagogues.

Students of the alternative school said it has helped them tremendously. "Teachers take their time with you," 14-year-old Shaheema Smith said. "You get more help than a regular class and my grades have improved a lot."

Freshmen Andre Alston said he would recommend the program to some of his friends. "It is a good program," he said, "it has done a lot for me."

He urged other young people to "stay in school cause you can't make it without an education."

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OPINION EDITORIAL

Whitman visits cities

Can urban policy be far behind?

It is good news to hear Gov. Whitman will be visiting four urban centers as part of her research and planning toward an urban policy for New Jersey. It is long overdue for this administration; however, it did not start with this administration. New Jersey for all practical purposes has had no visible signs of reclaiming its cities for a while.

New Jersey appears to be one of the few states that has decided to write off its cities for development of the suburbs and preservation of its marshlands. Fortunately, there are those in the cities who refuse to let their communities die.

Newark, Paterson, Jersey City, Camden and Trenton all have the potential to become great metropolitan areas for New Jersey. Not just one city but five cities offering housing, jobs, recreation, quality schools and contributing to the tax coffers of the State. It is only logical that Gov. Whitman begin this process with a commitment to develop a strong urban policy with implementation in the near future.

Maybe the Governor can add to her lists of firsts—a governor who cares about New Jersey cities enough to provide the leadership and policy necessary to help them rise again.

by Connie Woodruff

The November 8 election is history. Winners and losers are settling down to the reality of governing in the best interest of New Jersey citizens.

As usual, statewide African-American Democrats came through for party-endorsed candidates simply because they were fearful of replacing the known with the unknown. This was especially true in the U.S. Senate race and the re-election of Senator Frank Lautenberg.

If black Democrats had not rallied behind the Senator like the party loyalists they are, Assemblyman Chuck Haytaian would have been a sure winner in the frenzied atmosphere of political change that had Democrats throughout the country shaking in their boots.

Senator Frank Lautenberg may

find it difficult to give credit where it's due, but for the sake of his party's future in New Jersey he should be willing to extol the importance of the black vote and should be willing to pay a debt of gratitude by continuing to reach out and touch.

One of the people definitely responsible for turning the tide in a campaign, not particularly exciting for African Americans, was the Senator's Legislative Aide on leave to serve as one of the campaign's assistant directors.

Christy Davis, a popular and articulate young attorney has been on the Senator's Newark staff for close to a year. She is a skilled lobbyist who was formerly chief of staff to State Senator Wynona Lipman. Her statewide contacts and interaction with the electorate were invaluable in overcoming negative attitudes and apathy among minority voters.

Now the election is over, and nagging rumors persist that there will be a reorganization of the Senator's inner circle staffers that could affect appointees, like Ms. Davis, who have given Mr. Lautenberg new credibility in the black community.

African Americans still remember how quietly John Thomas was put out to pasture as a Lautenberg staffer and would not take kindly to a similar fate for Christy Davis. But if she voluntarily moves on to something bigger and better we wish her well.

Some other politicians who should move on to higher ground are those who continue to brag and boast about their roles in the defeat of Cardell Cooper in the Essex County Executive election.

Those who joyfully admit to doing Cooper in are hardly regarded as conquering heroes but petty political bureaucrats more willing to settle personal vendettas than to open new doors of progress for minorities in Essex County.

Is there another war brewing in East Orange? Probably, since councilman Mark Scotland is being urged to challenge councilwoman Wynona Blake for the council presidency.

Blake has had a tumultuous first term presiding over a council constantly at odds with the mayor and city department heads and each other. The possibility is that the struggle for council president could wind up in a tie vote that will set the stage for another battle royale as this council begins a new year.

Meanwhile, in Newark invisible groups are gearing up for the municipal elections of 1996.

Mayor Sharpe James has said he plans to step down as chief executive. With his job up for grabs there is no shortage of interested and potential candidates. Two city council members expected to be in the forefront for mayor are alleged to be West Ward councilman Ron Rice and councilman-at-large Donald Tucker.

Supporters of councilwoman Mildred Crump are predicting she could be a compromise candidate while other voters are reportedly urging Ron Banks and Dr. Colleen Wilson to consider a re-run for the office.

And friends of Rev. Perry Simmons, a former Board of Education member are quietly contemplating an exploratory committee to determine whether or not the clergyman has enough juice to run and win the mayoralty.

The O.J. Case: racist conspiracy or collective paranoia?

by Bart Ofari Hutchinson, Ph.D.

Nation of Islam Leader, Louis Farrakhan recently warned that the media has "destroyed" O.J. Simpson. He fingered *Time* magazine for doctoring the cover picture of O.J. to make him look more sinister and menacing. Farrakhan claimed that *Time* "did the same to me" in a cover picture.

O.J. is only the latest smear target. The Nation of Islam warns that sinister plots, secret relationships, hidden agendas and covert plans are being hatched to destabilize black organizations and wipe-out black leaders.

Many blacks agree. It is now respectable, even fashionable, to talk about conspiracies and plots against blacks. On nearly every talk show I've appeared on this year the host has asked, "Do you think there's a conspiracy against blacks?" Many African-American telephone callers on these shows dutifully chime in with an assorted list of plotters that

run the gamut from international Zionists to the CIA.

But why has the O.J. case brought the conspiracy fears of African Americans exploding to the surface? He never visibly identified with black causes. He moved easily in the corporate world of money and power. His friends and personal relations were mostly white. Yet those are precisely the reasons his plight has heightened black paranoia. If the mainstream media could relentlessly assault his character and prosecutors could orchestrate a damaging campaign to convince the public of his guilt even before a trial, then every black was fair game.

A majority of African Americans in July CNN and *Newsweek* polls insisted there was a conspiracy by "unknown forces," to frame him. They reasoned that "O.J.'s fall from grace reinforced the deep belief by many of the public that black men were a menace to society. This would provide still another excuse to marginalize, repress and eventually physically eliminate blacks."

O.J., say the conspiracy theorists, is the latest link in a racial plot that began in the 1960s. It goes like this. Following the urban uprisings, the ghettos were flooded with drugs, alcohol, gangs and guns. During the 1980s AIDS was imported in. The "white establishment" wanted to stop blacks from developing unity, strong political organizations and programs to counter oppression. The plot was to get blacks to self-destruct.

Some blacks, like Farrakhan, named the "unknown forces" behind the plot. "Where do the drugs come from? Who is the unseen hand. The government of the United States," he said in editorials and articles, the Nation's newspaper, *The Final Call* rages that the "unknown forces" had a globe master plan to plunder Africa's strategic minerals and annihilate African-American leaders.

There is certainly no proof that any of this is true. And most whites and some blacks laugh at, ridicule and lampoon much of this as the lunatic ravings of crackpot fringe groups that trade in paranoia. Still, we must remember the old line that even paranoids have enemies. Historian Richard Hottelander observed that Americans have always had a special affinity for "a paranoid style" in times of crisis.

That style is grounded in real events. The "unknown forces" worked stealthily behind the scenes to neutralize black leaders and organizations. As early as 1918, Army Intelligence and the Justice Department's J. Edgar Hoover spun on black organizations. When Hoover took over the FBI in 1924 he began putting the pieces in place for COINTELPRO. The plan included spies, informers, wiretaps, mail covers, and secret dossiers on black organizations and leaders. The NAACP and Marcus Garvey's UNIA were special targets. The government indicted, imprisoned and deported Garvey and broke up his organization.

During the next three decades, the FBI and Army Intelligence spied on Paul Robeson, W.E.B. DuBois, Walter White, Roy Wilkins and Thurgood Marshall. The government escalated its secret war in the 1960s. Army Intelligence sent teams of agents, flew U-2 spy planes on reconnaissance and devised deep cover counter-insurgency plans against black militants.

Hoover who had a near clinical obsession with "preventing the rise of a black Messiah" used the FBI's entire arsenal of dirty tricks from poison pen letters to murderous police raids to nail Malcolm X, Martin Luther King and the Black Panther Party. It worked. Malcolm and King were murdered and the Panthers crumbled from external attack and internal self-destruction. The civil rights movement and black power movements were permanently crippled.

The FBI did not entirely abandon COINTELPRO after Hoover's death in 1972. During the 1980s it harassed Arab-Americans, surveilled black elected officials, and waged a five year covert operations campaign against pacifist and religious leaders opposed to American policy in Central America. The Justice Department got into the repressive act. It initiated 465 political corruption probes between 1983 and 1988. Fourteen percent targeted black elected officials even though they comprise

only three percent of U.S. elected officials between 1981 and 1993, half of the 26 members of the Congressional Black Caucus were subjects of federal investigations. Many blacks charged that this was a punitive campaign to traumatize black leadership.

Blacks are justified in suspecting that government agencies occasionally bend the rules of democracy in an overzealous search for political enemies. But suspicions don't prove that there are conspiracies or secret plots afoot to get O.J. and other prominent blacks. But this won't stop many African-Americans from believing that there are.

Dr. Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of *The Assassination of the Black Male Image*.

Quote of the week

Every race and every nation should be judged by the best it has been able to produce, not the worst.

—James Weldon Johnson

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City News is published weekly by City News Publishing Company
P.O. Box 1774, 144 North Avenue, Plainfield, N.J. 07061, Telephone (908) 754-3400 FAX (908) 753-1034. The publisher reserves the right to delete objectionable words or phrases and to reject any advertising. This publication, in whole or parts thereof, may not be reproduced in any form whatsoever without the expressed written permission of the Publisher. City News assumes no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, art or photographs. No material submitted can be returned without a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
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KidsKalendar

DECEMBER 6

JERSEY CITY—Children over age 7 can learn to create their own autobiography during a bookmaking workshop at The Jersey City Main Library at 3:15 p.m. For more info call 201-547-4519.

DECEMBER 8

JERSEY CITY—The Hudson City Branch Library presents a Santa Magic Show to all ages at 3:00 p.m. For more info, call 201-547-4556.

DECEMBER 10 AND 11

NEW YORK—Kids can design their own costume from fabric and glue at the Children's Museum of the Arts between noon and 5 p.m. For more info, call 212-274-0986.

DECEMBER 11

NORTH BRANCH—A Dutton Family Holiday will be presented at Raritan Valley Community College at 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 6 p.m. For more info, call 908-725-3420.

DECEMBER 12

JERSEY CITY—The Jersey City Main Public Library invites children to O.T. Zappa's Christmas Show at 3:30 p.m. For more info, call 201-547-4519.

DECEMBER 15

JERSEY CITY—The Five Corners Branch Library offers children through grade 3 a craft program "Let's make Christmas ornaments" at 3 p.m. For more info, call 201-547-6557.

DECEMBER 16

JERSEY CITY—The West Bergen Branch Library invites children in grades 1 and up to its Christmas party and film at 3 p.m. For more info, call 201-547-4554.

Send Kids Kalendar events to:
City News,
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Middlesex County College offers Wintersession

EDISON—This January, students from more than 100 colleges and universities, as well as high school students and working adults, will get a jump on the competition at Middlesex County College (MCC).

MCC is offering concentrated day and evening classes in a wide variety of course offerings during "Wintersession" from January 3 to 20, 1995. Classes will be held Monday through Friday, plus Saturday, January 7 (no classes on January 16). Basic skills and other developmental courses, sessions for those who speak English as a second language, accounting, business, science, technology, computers, liberal arts, engineering technology, even a racquetball course—MCC has something for everyone this year.

Youth invited to Hispanic Recruitment Day

WAYNE—More than 200 students from high schools in northern New Jersey will gather at William Paterson College in Wayne when the college holds its seventh annual Hispanic Recruitment Day program on Tuesday, November 29.

The students will participate in workshops on the college experience, tour WPC's 250-acre campus including its state-of-the-art communication facility, and be entertained at lunch by an ensemble from the college's award winning Jazz Studies Program. A highlight of the day will be a talk by Mari Santana, news anchor at WNTU Channel 47 New York, at 11:30 a.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. The public is invited to attend this presentation focusing on career opportunities in communication for Hispanics.

High school students who would like to attend the Hispanic Recruitment Day activities are invited to contact Elsie Baires, assistant director in WPC's Office of Admissions, at 201-395-3101.

YOUTH EDUCATION/SUCCESS

Karen Drake named commended student

PLAINFIELD—Karen Drake, a senior at Morristown-Beard School, has been named a Commended Student in the 1995 National Merit Scholarship Program. She received a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program.

Karen is among some 35,000 Commended Students in the country being honored for their outstanding performance on the 1993 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screening of more than one million juniors. They have shown exceptional academic promise by placing among the top five percent of the participants.

"It is important to acknowledge

the attainments of academically talented students and to credit schools for the key role they play in their development," said a National Merit spokesperson. "We hope the recognition received by the able young men and women who are commended in this rigorous, nationwide competition will encourage them to take advantage of their opportunities for higher education and to pursue their professional goals with diligence. The nation will benefit from the full development of this precious intellectual resource."

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation is a privately financed, not-for-profit organization that receives grants from some 600 independent sponsors to underwrite scholarships.

An interview with Brandy

by Tonya Pendleton

Her irrepressible good humor, perkiness, and penchant for shopping makes her a typical 15-year-old. But that's where comparisons cease. Brandy Norwood has already had a leading role in a television series (the now defunct *Thelma*) and is releasing her debut self-titled album on Atlantic Records.

Though her mature voice and range suggest a developing diva, Brandy's early successes have not eroded her solid upbringing. She was born in McComb, Mississippi, but was raised in the Los Angeles suburb of Carson, where she led a fairly quiet life. But her musical talents were evident even as a young child.

Brandy's father is a choir director, and gospel singing, and her entire family is active in the church. She credits them with supporting her career, and helping her keep a level head. In fact it was her father who first inspired Brandy to sing.

"I watched my father in church," says Brandy. "I found out I had talent, and I watched Whitney Houston a lot. From there, I said if God has blessed me with this voice I should just go and pursue my dream." At 11, Brandy was performing in talent shows and at community and charity events when she met a producer who took her under the record label.

At 14, she got a deal with Atlantic Records. She also had a talent agent, who sent her to the acting auditions that resulted in her role on *Thelma*.

Brandy plans to go to college, though she will probably take a year off of school and work with a tutor while her career is developing.

Her family has adjusted easily to the changes her increased recognition have wrought, since Brandy's younger brother, Willie Norwood Jr., is also an actor, last seen on the *Sinbad* show. Her song, "Best Friend" is dedicated to him.

Long hours and repetitive singing didn't bother Brandy until the day she had to turn down a trip to an amusement park with friends. But other than that, Brandy is enjoying her dual career, and she says for right now, she wants to concentrate on singing. Through singing, she's been able to "give back to her community," a commitment she's sincere about.

Brandy has performed for Brotherhood Crusade, a charitable organization that recognizes and honors people who have contributed to the community. She's also active in Sabra's Castle of Fun, a charity for sick children. A Christian college in Texas has established a Brandy Norwood musical scholarship, and the cities of Los Angeles and Carson have already had a Brandy Norwood day.

Brandy looks forward to performing and to one day buying her parents a new home and helping her family achieve financial independence. Fame and money may be eminent, but what's most important to Brandy is that she maintains her own identity.

"When you see young, black female singers, they're coming out hard. I want to come out in a different direction. You never see a little



Flower girls: Selling Rose Surprises at the Fall Luncheon sponsored by the Parents Association of Morristown-Beard School were, from left, Karen Drake, Plainfield; Jennifer Haiken, South Orange; and Lauren MacMahon, Morris Plains. All are seniors. Proceeds from the 25th anniversary event are used to benefit the School.

Gifted Hands



Brandy

Whitney Houston, a little Toni Braxton, a little Mariah Carey, with a lot of class. That's the way I want to come out, I want to come out as a really, very classy and respectful."

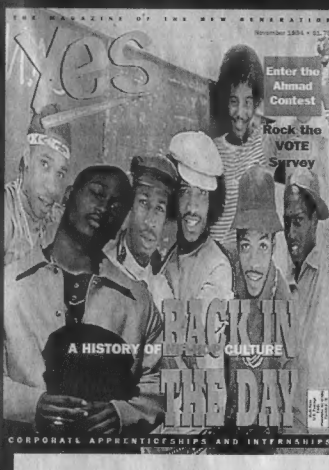


WASHINGTON D.C.—Renowned neurosurgeon, Dr. Ben Carson autographs a copy of his book, "Gifted Hands, The Ben Carson Story" for a young admirer. More than 200 lucky conventioners received a copy of Dr. Carson's book courtesy of Toyota at the 24th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Weekend in Washington, D.C..

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NOW THRU DECEMBER 7

MAHWAH—There will be an Haitian Art Exhibit at Ramapo College Art Gallery, 2nd fl. of the George Potter Library Monday thru Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more info, call 201-529-7602.

NOW THRU 11-DECEMBER 11

ELIZABETH—"Kind Lady" by Edward Chodorov will appear at the Elizabeth Playhouse. Call 908-355-0077 for performance times and reservations.

NOW THRU 14-DECEMBER 19

MANHATTAN—Jazz at Lincoln Center will present "The Louis Armstrong Concert" at 212-675-5391 for theaters and times.

NOW THRU THRU JUNE 11

MANHATTAN—The Museum of the City of New York will exhibit "Ladies Mile: Empress and Entertainment" an exhibition of costumes and accessories for men, women and children in the Changing Exhibition Gallery. For more info, call 212-534-1672, ext. 260.

NOVEMBER 30

NEWARK—Essex County College is having an Evening Coffee House celebration of Puerto Rican Heritage Month from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Main Dining Hall. For more info, call 201-877-1892.

NEW YORK—Thirteen/WNET's American Masters features "Rediscovering Will Rogers" at 9 p.m. on PBS.

DECEMBER 1

WESTBURY—Al Jarreau will be at Westbury Music Fair at 8 p.m. For more info, call 516-334-0800.

DECEMBER 2

WATCHUNG—The Watchung Arts Center is hosting a jazz series at 8 p.m. featuring Terry Blue and Mark Shane. For more info, call 908-753-0190.

WESTBURY—Kathy Lee Gifford will appear at the Westbury Music Fair at 8 p.m. For more info, call 516-334-0800.

DECEMBER 5

TENAFLY—Wyston Masalia will give a benefit concert at 8 p.m. at JCC Pailades. For more info, call 212-662-7171.

DECEMBER 6

PISCATAWAY—Circle Players invites all those interested in learning about the Theatre group to attend this monthly meeting, 8 p.m. at Circle Playhouse, 416 Victoria Ave. Workshops and play is free and open to the public. Call 908-968-7555 for more information.

DECEMBER 8

NEW YORK—Family Portrait a play about a family living with the secret of incest will be performed at The Shubert Theater at NYU Tisch School of Arts at 10 a.m. For more info, call 212-969-0748.

DECEMBER 9

WESTBURY—Gladys Knight will perform at the Westbury Music Fair at 8 p.m. For more info, call 516-334-0800.

DECEMBER 9 AND 10

ATLANTIC CITY—Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons will appear at The Grand A Bally Casino Resort. For more info, call 1-800-736-1420.

DECEMBER 10, 11, 12

WESTBURY—Kenny Rogers will be performing at the Westbury Music Fair for the holiday season. For more info, call 516-334-0800.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

WATCHUNG—"1-2-3 Painters" is an unusual figurative exhibit featuring the works of Nancy Egri Nikkol, Belsay Regan and June Wilson. These three artists have unique views of the human figure, see and compare. For more info, call 908-753-0190.

DECEMBER 14 THRU 19

NEW YORK—The Lincoln Center presents a week-long jazz celebration honoring Louis Armstrong at various locations. For more info, call 212-721-6500.

DECEMBER 15 THRU 28

MILLBURN—The Nutcracker will be performed at the Paper Mill Playhouse at 8 p.m. and 3 p.m. matinee. For more info, call 201-376-4343.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

WATCHUNG—Jazz vocalist Jeanie Bryson will be appearing at the Watchung Arts Center. The 8 p.m. concert will offer a varied program of jazz, pop, standards and more. Call 908-753-0190 for ticket information.

SOUTH AMBOY—Saxman Marion Meadows will be appearing at Club Bore Dinner Theatre. Showtime is 8:00 p.m. For more info and reservations call 908-727-3000.

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ARTZ WEDNESDAY

The Last Poets celebrate Kwanzaa at Kean College

UNION—As part of a pre-Kwanzaa celebration at Kean College of New Jersey, The Last Poets will present their unique urban sound to the college community on Sunday, December 11, 1994 at 6 p.m.

Formed in May of 1968 in Harlem, The Last Poets recite poetry as a group, instead of individually, while conga drums play throughout the chant. The group performed to critical acclaim on the 1994 Lollapalooza Tour and have toured a wide circuit of college campuses including NYU, San Francisco, and Temple University. They will now add Kean's pre-Kwanzaa celebration to their diverse portfolio.

Kwanzaa, Swahili for "the first fruits of the harvest," is observed from December 26 until January 1. It is a celebration of the richness and diversity of centuries of African culture and values.

The Last Poets are scheduled to kick off the pre-celebration sponsored by Kean's Pan African Student Union, Africana Studies, Concerned Black Personnel, and the Africana Studies Club.

For more information, call the College's Pan African Student Union at 908-965-1366 or the Office of Africana Studies at 908-527-2375.

Harlem opens its doors to a new taste

NEW YORK—"Snooky's" restaurant is uptown's newest dining treat for the discriminating palate looking for food that's healthy and light. Located in Harlem, Snooky's seeks to provide cuisine other than the fast and fried dishes typically found in the Harlem community. Diners may feast on a hardscrabble of unique soups, salads, entrees and sandwiches. crustless Mexican quiche, chicken served with light, airy waffles, and steaming espressos or cappuccinos are just a few of Snooky's "delights" designed to satisfy even the most discriminating palate.

Although Snooky's has been open for less than three months, its reputation for fine fare has already earned the restaurant a celebrity catering job. Snooky's recently served as caterer to the talent who participated in the First Annual Negro League Awards Celebration. The celebration was held at the Marriott Marquis in New York. Celebrating guests included Dave Winfield, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, George Wallace, Bertie Berry and Sounds of Blackness.

The small, but intimate restaurant, which boasts a "neo-classic meets modern" feel, is open Sunday through Friday. On Sundays, diners are treated to a soothing jazz brunch and personal attention from the staff. Snooky's is located at 63 West 137th Street between Lenox & Fifth Avenues in New York City.

Capitol Records honors Nat King Cole



Young Richard Tyler takes refuge from a storm in an empty library, he finds himself stepping into a new and wondrous world. In no time at all, he's sent on an amazing animated adventure by *The Pagemaster*, keeper of the books and guardian of the written word. In a place where imagination runs wild, three unforgettable characters representing the timeless literary themes of Adventure, Fantasy and Horror help guide Richard through some amazing adventures. And before Richard goes back home, a timid boy will have become a remarkable hero. Twentieth Century Fox Presents in association with Turner Pictures, Inc., *The Pagemaster*, starring Macaulay Culkin and Christopher Lloyd. The film features the voice talents of Whoopi Goldberg, Patrick Stewart, Leonard Nimoy and Frank Welker, and also stars Ed Begley, Jr., and Mel Harris.



Everyone, especially children, knows that the holiday season is a time for miracles. However, 6-year-old Susan Walker has doubts about childhood's most enduring miracle, Santa Claus. Susan's mom told her the "secret" about Santa a long time ago, and it seems that Susan's holiday wishes won't even come close to being granted. This holiday season, Susan is going to receive the most precious gift of all: something to believe in. And she's about to discover that miracles do exist. Director John Hughes weaves his special moviemaking magic with his new production of the 1947 classic holiday film, *Miracle On 34th Street*.



It was a town that gave so much... even the Firpo brothers couldn't take anymore. It's Christmas Eve, and Bill, Alvin and Dave Firpo, three small-time crooks from New York are spending the holidays in the small hamlet of Paradise. The wayward brothers are desperately trying to get out of town, but their big city craftiness is no match for the good people of Paradise who are slowly killing the Firpos with kindness. Twentieth Century Fox Presents *Trapped In Paradise*, starring Nicolas Cage, Jon Lovitz and Dana Carvey.

NEW YORK—At a gala ceremony recently, Gary Gersh, president & CEO of Capitol Records presented the family of Nat King Cole with Capitol's highest honor, the Tower of Achievement Award. Pictured (L-R): Gary Gersh, Natalie Cole, Maria Cole, Casey Cole, Carole Cole, and Timolin Cole.

WESLEY SNIPES

SOMETHING DANGEROUS IS IN THE AIR

DROP ZONE

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS A NICITA/LLOYD PRODUCTION A JOHN BADHAM MOVIE WESLEY SNIPES DROP ZONE GARY BUSEY YANCY BUTLER
MICHAEL JETER MUSIC BY HANS ZIMMER COSTUME DESIGNER JONAS CLAYBOURNE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN BADHAM PRODUCED BY TONY GRIFFIN & GUY MARANO & PETER BARSCIOCHNI
SCREENPLAY BY PETER BARSCIOCHNI AND JOHN BISHOP DIRECTED BY J. CARLOS WALLIS NICITA AND LLOYD PRODUCED BY JOHN BADHAM
COMING DECEMBER 9

KEENEN IVORY WYANS

SALLI RICHARDSON JADA PINKETT

A LOW DOWN DIRTY SHAME

KEENEN IVORY WYANS
KEENEN IVORY WYANS "A LOW DOWN DIRTY SHAME" CHARLES DUTTON
JADA PINKETT SALLI RICHARDSON ANDREY DYDOK
MUSIC BY MARCUS MILLER

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Produced by: JIMMY L. GALT, LEE R. WATKINS, and ROGER BRIDGMAN
Director of Photography: JIMMY L. GALT
Casting: JIMMY L. GALT
Production Designer: JIMMY L. GALT
Executive Producer: JIMMY L. GALT
Producers: JIMMY L. GALT, LEE R. WATKINS, and ROGER BRIDGMAN
Written and Directed by: KEENEN IVORY WYANS
Produced by: JIMMY L. GALT, LEE R. WATKINS, and ROGER

Business Calendar

BUSINESS EXCHANGE

Getting our priorities straight

by William Reed

The South Jersey Entrepreneurs Network presents their new compilation **The New Jersey Financial Resources Manual**, an indispensable publication for every new, emerging and growing company. To order or for more info call 609-705-8877.

NOV THRU DECEMBER 14
GRANPOINTE Union County College will offer a series of 10 non-credit seminars on financial planning to better acquaint participants with ways that they might best invest their money. For more info call 908-709-7600.

DECEMBER 1, 5 & 8
MANHATTAN—Nynex will sponsor an **MDE Sales Training Seminar** at the Nynex building on East 38th Street. For more info call 212-338-4004.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
WASHINGTON, DC—**White House Conference on Small Business**, sponsored by WNCBS. Washington DC. Call 202-724-0891.

DECEMBER 3 AND 10
JERSEY CITY—There will be a **Buying and Investing in Foreclosed Real Estate** seminar at Hudson County Community College from 10 a.m. to noon. For more info call 201-714-2107.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6
NEWARK—There will be a one day seminar on **Small Business**, at the David Samoff Research Center at noon. For more info call 609-279-0010.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7
PRINCETON—Software market lecture with experienced entrepreneurs from the software market place, at the David Samoff Research Center at noon. For more info call 609-279-0010.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Learn everything you need to know to get a brochure from the company at The Evolution of a Brochure seminar at the New Jersey Law Center at 6 p.m. For more info call 908-828-3433.

DECEMBER 7 AND 8
NEW YORK—A two-day seminar on advertising research foundation key issues workshop at the New York Hilton. For more info call 212-753-5658.

Send Business Calendar events to City News
P.O. Box 1774
Plainfield, NJ 07061

It is important to keep focused on immediate priorities. The number one priority for this generation of African Americans must be building personal and family wealth. As a people we have not focused enough organized attention in this direction and as a result we have no economic foundation in this country. Our main objective should be to build an economic foundation for ourselves now, and leave something so that our children do not have to start at the back of the bus, like you did.

The Census Bureau recently reported that the median household income for blacks now stands at 54 percent of white median household income. This means that for every dollar earned by a white family, black families are only earning 54 cents.

This is because of institutionalized racism in America! Is the reason that African Americans are the group with the highest poverty rate in the country because of racism? Racism may be a daily factor in each of our lives, but it surely doesn't account for all of the economic short comings of a group of people who have annual earnings of over \$390 billion and could rank as the 10th largest income group in the world.

Virtually every ethnic or racial group in this country has grasped the importance of building a strong economic foundation, except blacks. Asian-Americans surely experience similar discrimination and prejudice as us, but Asian-Americans have now replaced whites as the racial group with the highest median household income. The reason that Asian-Americans have had so much success here is because they've been forced into

business ventures due to language differences and a tendency to circulate money between themselves.

The median income for Asian American households stands at \$38,347 a year while white median household income stands at \$32,980. Hispanics placed third with a \$22,846 annual household income level. Blacks come in last with a median household income of \$19,532 and a record of never circulating money among themselves.

The main thing for us now is to remember every day what each of us has to do to build our family wealth, structure and security. Economics is the foundation of social life. If we do not collectively wake up and focus primary attention on building black wealth, our family structures, values and neighborhoods will continue to deteriorate.

If we don't start building, and buying from, our own businesses, we will stay at the back of the pack. We should all bear in mind the old saying about dogs in a dog sled team: "If you ain't in the lead dog, the view is always the same."

If we keep doing what we have always been doing, we will continue to get what we've always gotten. And black Americans keep doing the same old things. For the past 30 years political power was the clarion call for black Americans. We believed that if we elected enough black officials to office everything would be all right. But electing black officials to look after our interests has not only not improved our overall conditions, but in most cases has caused us to go backwards.

For 20 years, African American cities like Detroit and Gary continued to re-elect the same mayors time after time while the infrastructure

and lifestyles in those urban areas continued to go down and down. In the most recent national elections urban blacks returned every incumbent black congress member back to Capitol Hill for their empowerment in America.

Back in the 1960s when we started to send blacks such as John Conyers, Bill Clay and other multiple-term congress people to Washington, black American families were earning 61 cents for every dollar earned by white households. Today it is down to 54 cents. While these politicians have gained personal empowerment on Capitol Hill, African-American society has been peddling backwards.

Political empowerment cannot remain the African-American near-exclusive focus, as it has been for three decades. And, the same people who were supposed to lead us to greater successes cannot be left in charge if the results of their efforts don't improve the lot of our people.

We must stop doing the same old things and electing the same old people to office if we really are seeking change.

The main thing for us to do is to remember the important things needed for economic development. We

need to start building our communities by using black companies who employ labor, and have our church groups select blacks to build their buildings. We should save at black banks and shop with blacks, whenever possible.

We must start investment clubs with friends and family and invest in start-up businesses to service our communities. We must hold our conventions and conferences in black-run Elks and Masonic halls until groups of sororities, fraternities and/or investment clubs come together to buy and build hotels and convention centers for black use.

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To be certain that you share this conviction, I am announcing two important steps to assure you of the validity and integrity of our operating standards.

First, General Robert C. Oaks, a highly decorated command pilot and the former commander in chief of U. S. Air Forces in Europe, has agreed to oversee USAir's safety operations in the air and on the ground. He will report directly to me.

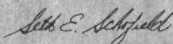
General Oaks is a proven dynamic leader of men and women who fly, maintain and support high-performance aircraft in a high-density, highly visible aviation environment. This is exactly the kind of environment in which we fly.

Second, I have asked one of the most respected groups of aviation experts in our country, PRC Aviation, to conduct a complete and independent audit of all our flight safety operations.

Under the leadership of R. Dixon Speas, whose industry background in airline safety operations is unsurpassed, an expert team will go anywhere, ask any questions, and look at any records, manuals, bulletins or messages they think are germane to safety at USAir. There will be no limits to their inquiry.

In closing, let me say that we will not rest until each and every member of the flying public shares in the certainty of our commitment to be the safest of airlines.

Sincerely,



Seth E. Schofield
Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer

Hoop: There It Is

by Mack C. Williams

As last season progressed Houston Rockets' guard Sam Cassell earned a steadily increasing amount of playing time, diminishing the roles of veterans Kenny Smith and Scott Brooks. Interestingly enough, many Florida State watchers of two seasons ago felt that Charlie Ward, now a rookie with the New York Knicks, was a more complete player than Cassell, a fact that could bode well for the Knicks in their championship drive.

One drawback in the case of Ward is the fact that he is lacking, compara-

tively speaking, in on-court experience. As it turns out, Ward was spending his fall semesters on the football field as Florida State's quarterback. In light of the outcome, it seems as though it was time well spent; Ward happened to walk away with the Heisman Trophy, which is presented to the individual deemed the outstanding, collegiate football player in the nation.

Which brings us to the inhabitants of Giants Stadium, the Giants and Jets who have entered this season with some degree of uncertainty at the quarterback position. The jets remain in the playoff hunt - at least at the time of this writing - but entered this season

exactly where they are a mid-level team whose offense has reminded no one of San Diego's legendary "Air Coryell" teams of the 1970's and 80's.

The Giants, winless in their last seven games, had to have known that the introduction of the salary cap would make the dropping of veterans such as quarterback Phil Simms a possibility. They went into this season without a proven quarterback and have watched both young QBs experience severe growing pains, to put it kindly. Laid to rest the other twenty-six - couldn't even consider a look-see at the Heisman Trophy winning quarterback of the national championship winning team?

Despite the unrivaled athleticism

of Randall Cunningham, the golden arm of Warren Moon, and the Super Bowl record-setting performance of Doug Williams, might there still be a reluctance to go with an African-American QB?

So Ward is with the Knicks, and in a position where he could provide much-needed breaks for starters Derek Harper and John Starks, especially if Greg Anthony or Dot Rivers do not remain with the team. But with the way Pat Riley cuts his rotation down to six or seven players towards the end of the season and into the playoffs, Ward may not get much more time with the Knicks than he will with the Jets. So much for depth!

Essex County Young Dems to hold youth summit

NEWARK—The Essex County Young Democrats (ECYD) are sponsoring an all-day conference entitled "Youth Summit I" on Saturday, December 3, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the West Ward Boys and Girl Club in Newark. Essex County residents, especially those between 16 and 25, are invited to attend.

Government officials, community activists and private sector representatives will discuss job development and apprenticeship programs for young adults, economic development in Essex County and its impact on youth, and practical advice on obtaining employment. There will be a special emphasis on the needs of young adults from urban areas.

The summit is non-partisan and intended to facilitate a dialogue between government, community groups, the private sector and youth," said ECYD President Ronald Rice, Jr.

The summit is the first in a series of bi-monthly ECYD forums that will address issues important to youth such as education, crime, and recreation.

"Unfortunately, the concerns of young adults are often overlooked, while the needs of the elderly, taxpayers, and others receive great attention. We must remember, there can be no true renaissance in Newark or Essex County without the participation of young people. They represent the future of Essex County," said Rice.

Individuals invited to speak at the summit include:

Howard Atkins, Director, Newark Mayor's Office of Employment and Training; Ras Banaka, President, Black Nia Forer; Steve Bostic, President, South Orange Avenue Merchants Association; Ray Brannucci, former Commissioner, NJ Department of Labor; Mildred Crump, Newark Councilwoman at Large; Harold Edwards, President, Coalition of African-American Enterprises; Lori Dickens, Director, Newark Fighting Back; Bill Payne, Director, One to One Mentorship Program; James Treffinger, Essex County Executive-Elect; Howard Weiss, Director, Essex County Employment and Training Department.

DID YOU KNOW?

by Robert N. Taylor

: that the Japanese continue to break all the rules. According to a United Nations report, residents of Japan have a longer life expectancy than any other nation, and their life expectancies are increasing. This is happening even though the Japanese speak at a higher rate than any other industrialized nation, the meat content of their diets is increasing, their diets are very salty and they drink large amounts of alcohol. One Japanese expert explained the apparent contradiction this way: "There is not a lot of stress in our society. Stress kills faster than anything."

: that despite all the talk about overpopulation at the recent United Nations conference in Cairo, the notion that there are too many people in the world is actually false. The real problems are poverty and an unequal distribution of resources. In fact, if you were to divide everyone in the world into families of four and give every family a quarter-acre of land to live on, everyone in the world could fit comfortably right here in the United States and over half the land would still be unoccupied.

: that according to a study by professor Diane Lye of the University of Washington, men who have sons are less likely to get a divorce than men who have only fathered daughters.

: that among all animals, the one with the longest recorded life span is the tortoise. The Carolina box tortoise has been officially recorded as having lived to be 129. The longest life recorded for a human is 120 years.

: that perhaps the best way to keep your mind stimulated and functioning in a powerful manner is to learn a foreign language. Experts believe learning a new language forces a wide range of new connections in the brain and expands habitual ways of thinking.

: that Dr. James Toole has developed a procedure to prevent strokes by surgically removing fatty deposits from your neck's main artery. Toole is director of the Stroke Center at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

: that this week's favorite quote comes from motivational speaker Anthony Robbins: "Trying to achieve the pleasure of success without risking the pain of rejection will never work."

Archdiocese marks world AIDS day

NEWARK—On November 30, the eve of World AIDS Day, the Archdiocese of Newark will mark the occasion with prayer services throughout the Archdiocese. Groups of clergy, religious and lay people have organized prayer services of remembrance and healing to take place at four Catholic churches in Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties. The public, including all those affected by the HIV virus, is invited to attend and join in song and prayer. The evening services will be open to all denominations.

When asked, "Why the eve of World AIDS Day?" Msgr. Nicholas DiMarzio, Chairman of the Archdiocesan AIDS Task Force, replied, "This part of New Jersey has been hit by the AIDS pandemic. The Archdiocese continues to respond through its many outreach, housing and support programs currently offered to those in need. Given the profound impact of AIDS locally, the Archdiocese chose the eve for its observance to avoid any scheduling conflicts with local interfaith celebrations planned for World AIDS Day, December 1."

St. Rocco's Church, 212 Hunterdon Street, Newark, will host the Essex observance on November 30. Choir from Queen of Angels and St. Rocco's will join to lead the con-

gregation in song starting at 7:15 p.m. Fr. John Nickas, pastor of St. Rocco's, will begin the service at 7:30 p.m. by ringing the church bells 14 times to represent the 14 years of the AIDS pandemic.

Bro. Joe McAlister, Director of the Archdiocesan AIDS Support Center in Newark, explains, "there will be three elements in the Essex county observance: Remembrance, Healing and Support. All are encouraged to participate and share."

In Union county, prayers will be offered at St. Michael Church, 1212 Kelly Street (at Vauxhall Road), Union, at 7:30 p.m. where a section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed.

Evening Prayer will be offered on Wednesday evening, November 30th, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph of the Palisade (65th and Palisade Avenue), West New York.

The Bergen County observance will be held at Annunciation Church on West Midland Avenue in Paramus. Fr. John McCrone will lead a vigil service at 8 p.m.

For additional information, call, Newark: Fr. John Nickas at 201-824-1652, Union: Fr. Dominic Fucille at 908-688-1232, Paramus: Fr. John McCrone 201-261-4322, West New York: Fr. Frank Rose 201-854-7006.

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